

paragraph showing the changes made is attached.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the attached claims 1, 4, 8 for the claims 1, 4, 8 on file. A marked-up version of the claims showing the changes made is attached.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 10 are in the application.

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities; this concerns the erroneous numbering of the drive by reference numeral 10. Page 9, two lines from the bottom, has been corrected accordingly.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is respectfully requested. In regard to claim 4, the language of claim 1 has been revised in order to clarify that there is a first servo drive while the language of claim 4 has been changed.

to define a second servo drive. In claim 8 the language has been changed to read "for".

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harris is respectfully requested.

According to the examiner, the cited prior art Harris describes an apparatus for collecting, stitching and cutting printed products, wherein the apparatus comprises a collector chain (12), feeders (14a-d) arranged at the collector chain (12), a stitching device (30), a conveying device (32), and a drive unit (20) with a servo motor and a drive for the collector chain.

The examiner states that such a combination is well known in the art and makes reference to the incorporated US patent 4,768,766 with elements 50, 65, and 67, as described in column 6, lines 38-42.

This patent to Berger describes a system and a method for collecting and binding magazines and for printing addresses or a personalized message onto each magazine. The system comprises a

main control data processor, a storage means for coded message and address data, and a reader. Bindery lines for collecting the printed sheets of the magazine and for printing a personalized message/address onto the magazines are provided. A line control data processor with an operator terminal having a display and a touch screen input is connected to the bindery lines and controls the selection and combination of printed sheets and the personalized text. A communication network connects the main control with each line control and transmits the information from the main control to the line controls.

The two prior art references to Harris and Berger relate to selective binding wherein the books/magazines to be produced are to be provided with different contents and different addresses by an ink jet printer. For this purpose, as described in Harris, a so-called collector chain is provided which is operated by means of a corresponding control device. The control device is comprised substantially of the line control 22 for the collector chain 12, the stitching apparatus 30, and the trimming device 34, on the one hand, and a bindery control 18 for the selectively activated feeders 14a-14d. Such a configuration has nothing to do with the subject matter of the present invention.

The present invention as claimed in claim 1 concerns a drive unit for a collecting and stitching apparatus, wherein the drive unit is comprised of at least one first servo drive and a collector chain drive, connected to the collector chain and configured to control the first servo drive through a signal line in a synchronously timed manner, wherein the first servo drive is configured to drive additional units of the apparatus.

Harris does not disclose a drive system in which the drive device has at least one servo drive which is controlled by the collector chain drive via a signal line (20) in a synchronously timed manner and which operates further members such as feeder, stitching mechanism, trimmer of the apparatus, as claimed in instant claim 1. A synchronously timed control of the servo device driving various devices of the apparatus by means of the collector chain drive is neither disclosed in Harris nor in U.S. 4,768,766; both prior art references refer to control systems for a selective binding process but not to a synchronously timed drive control between servo drive and collector chain drive.

Accordingly, claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited prior art. Claim 1 together with its

dependent claims is therefore believed to be allowable.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: claims 1, 4, 8 (clean copy and marked-up version); page 9, last paragraph, clean copy and marked-up version

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 14, 2001.

By: *Friedrich Kueffner*
Friedrich Kueffner

Date: August 14, 2001

Marked-up Version of Claims 1, 4, 8 Showing Changes Made

1. (Amended) An apparatus for collecting, stitching and/or cutting printed products, the apparatus comprising an endless collector chain and successively arranged feeders mounted above the collector chain for placing the printed products on the collector chain, a stitching device for stitching the printed products, and a delivery unit for removing the printed products at a conveying end of the collector chain and for supplying the printed products for further processing, the apparatus further comprising a drive unit comprised of at least one first servo drive and a collector chain drive, connected to the collector chain and configured to control for controlling the first servo drive through a signal line in a synchronously timed manner, wherein the first servo drive is configured to drive and for driving additional units of the apparatus.

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the collector chain drive is a second servo drive.

8. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, comprising electronic means for adjusting a speed of the collector chain to for different chain divisions.

Marked-up Version of Page 9, Last Paragraph

The double collector chain 3 is provided at its front end with a drive wheel 18 which is driven by a drive 19 +¹⁰, i.e., a servo drive. This drive 19 is composed of an electric motor M2 and a